

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to urge you to block the proposed SBC/AT&T and Verizon/MCI mergers (WC Dockets 05-65 and 05-75, respectively). These mergers would stifle competition and would decrease options while increasing price. They could even worsen the "digital divide" at a time when over 60 percent of Americans don't have high-speed Internet service in the home.

I am tired of the Federal government standing idly by while year after year jobs are lost, service is invariably worsened and the country as a whole suffers because merger after merger is allowed which does nothing more than make a select few people richer while everyone ends up paying more and getting considerably less in value and service. Most of the woes we face as a nation stem directly from the fact that fewer and fewer people have real jobs that pay a living wage, which has been directly caused the destruction of businesses resulting from mergers and acquisitions. It was pointless for the courts to break up the ATT monopoly, only to have it recreated by mergers. It is totally absurd that MCI was allowed to continue in business at all after it cheated thousands of people by the actions of its executives. The bankruptcy court is nothing more than a champion of fraud. These mergers would put the interests of large corporations over the interests of individual consumers,!

and you have a duty to block them. In a world of increased competition, consumers could be enjoying unlimited local and long-distance telephone calls, as well as high-speed Internet access, for just \$40 -- \$15 for community Internet and \$25 for unlimited phone calls over the Internet. But today, this costs about \$90 more than double the price! The FCC should block these mergers and find new ways to bring down the costs of these services, particularly high-speed Internet which has become essential to modern life and is the gateway to exciting new technologies, like making phone calls on the Internet and streaming in video over the Internet. America is falling behind the rest of the world in broadband deployment. We are now 16th, far behind countries like Japan and Korea, which have opened up the building blocks of broadband phone and cable lines to competitors. This merger would only worsen these problems and therefore must be blocked. They would stifle competition,

raise prices, and lead to fewer choices, making the problem worse, not better.

Sincerely,

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